

SECRET

DIADIN 295-2E
AS OF 1945 EDT
22 OCT 81

LIBERIA: COUP PLOTTING AND HYSTERIA.

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FOUR FORMER MEMBERS OF THE LIBERIA'S DISBANDED ARMY COMMANDO UNIT WERE ARRESTED ON 20 AND 21 OCTOBER FOR ALLEGED COUP PLOTTING. ALL WERE ENLISTED MEN. INITIAL REPORTING SUGGESTS OTHERS MAY HAVE BEEN INVOLVED.

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AT ABOUT THE SAME TIME OF THE ARRESTS, POLICE REPORTED 250 SOVIET AND LIBYAN TROOPS HAD LANDED IN MONROVIA TO OVERTHROW THE PEOPLE'S REDEMPTION COUNCIL, THE COUNTRY'S RULING BODY. THE REPORT WAS LATER FOUND TO BE A FABRICATION, BUT NOT UNTIL AFTER SECURITY FORCES HAD BEEN PLACED ON ALERT.

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ALTHOUGH THIS COUP PLOT APPEARS TO HAVE BEEN HAULTED IN AN EARLY STAGE, IT IS THE SECOND SUCH PLOT REPORTED WITHIN THE LAST 3 MONTHS. THE LAST ALLEGED PLOT RESULTED IN THE AUGUST EXECUTION OF THEN VICE HEAD OF STATE GEN THOMAS WEH SYEN. HEAD OF STATE SAMUEL K. DOE CAME TO POWER BY A COUP IN APRIL 1980 WHEN HE OUSTED PRESIDENT TOLBERT. LIBERIA MAY BE FACING A PERIOD OF POLITICAL INSTABILITY WHICH WOULD BE UNIQUE IN ITS 134 YEARS AS AN INDEPENDENT NATION. (REVW 21 OCT 01)

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DIA Review
Completed.

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